

Customer No.: 31561
Application No.: 10/708,876
Docket No.: 12707-US-PA

REMARKS

Present Status of the Application

The Office Action rejected claims 1-11. Specifically, the Office Action rejected claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Maiocchi (U. S. Patent 5,397,972). Claims 1-12 remain pending in the present application, and reconsideration of those claims is respectfully requested.

Discussion of Claim Rejections under 35 USC 102

The Office Action rejected claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Maiocchi. Applicants respectively traverse the rejections for at least the reasons set forth below.

With respect to independent claims 1 and 6 (see FIG. 4), *the zero-crossing point of BEMF is taken from the floating winding while the other two windings are in the excited state.* In this situation, the signal detection for the zero-crossing point of BEMF is specifically corresponding to the floating winding, and is not randomly from any one of the three windings, as disclosed in Maiocchi.

In re Maiocchi, the procedure is shown in Fig. 8. The "disexciting motor" is performed after the initial exciting by a time of T_0 , and then the exciting is interrupted (col. 8, lines 59-60; col. 9, lines 20-24). In addition, after passing a mask time of $T_0/8$, the zero-crossing point from *any one of the three-phase windings* is detected (col. 7, lines 21-23). This is different from the present invention.

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Further in Fig. 9, for the CA_ phase, under exciting by a time of T0, a closest zero-crossing point for *c-winding* between address 6 and 2 is detected. On the contrary, in the present invention for the CA_ phase, the zero-crossing point of BEMF should be detected from the *B-winding*, which is currently in floating state while the other two windings C and A are under exciting.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Maiocchi does not disclose the same starting procedure as recited in independent claim 1 and 6. With at least the same reasons, dependent claims 2-5 and 7-11 more specifically define the starting procedure over Maiocchi.

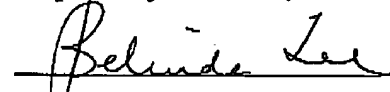
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CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all the pending claims 1-11 of the invention patently define over the prior art and are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,


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